

Assemblyman Says Conversion of Sea Water Probable in Future

By CHARLES E. CHAPPEL, State Assemblyman, 46th Dist. Sea water conversion as a method of obtaining fresh water for homes, business, industry and agriculture in Southern California, especially in Los Angeles County, has been one of my principal interests during the 10-year period I have been a member of the California State Legislature.

At first, those who had selfish reasons for pushing other methods of obtaining a badly needed fresh water bitterly opposed my recommendations. Gradually, many of them have been won over to admit the desirability of developing some method of sea water conversion, but the stumbling block has been the cost.

Up until recently, the lowest reliable estimates for the cost of sea water conversion in the Los Angeles area ranged from 50 to 60 cents per thousand gallons, but the Fluor Corporation, Ltd., a Los Angeles engineering corporation, has recently reported to the Department of the Interior it now has a method which will cost 42 cents per thousand gallons when produced by a plant having a capacity of 50 million gallons per day.

This is low enough to overcome the cost objections raised in the past and it indicates that further study and experience may bring the cost down drastically.

Sea water conversion at the new low cost does not conflict with the California water plan which includes the so-called Feather River Project for bringing water from the north over the Tehachapi Mountains to Southern California.

Instead, the sea water conversion plan supplements the California water plan, and is important for two vital reasons:

First, if in years of drought people of the north do not permit water to come south, as they can do under the California water plan as now worded, then the south will still have a source of fresh water in addition to our present supplies from the Colorado River and our various local wells.

Second, if an earthquake or bombing by an enemy nation broke the aqueducts from the north in the California water plan system, we would still have water.

For some strange reason, everyone seems afraid to mention the possibility of an earthquake breaking the aqueducts from the north in the California water plan system, and yet all of California is earthquake country, particularly along the mountain ranges of the Pacific Coast.

If a reader doubts this statement, he should consult any geology teacher in any high school and simply say: "Tell me about earthquake fault lines on the geographical map of California."

An enemy nation does not need to destroy our armies and navy to seize our nation. All that needs to be done is to gain control of our water systems, and our utilities, including, but not limited to, telephone companies, water systems, gas systems, electric systems and water systems.

On top of that, the newspapers, radio and television would be seized and controlled, first to cause panic and desperation and then to brain-wash our people into submission.

After these comparatively simple objectives are reached by an enemy, our armed forces can be taken over at leisure. Furthermore, the attack need not come from the air or sea. It could come from communists in our midst, of which we have many more than people would like to believe.

Obviously, the same vulnerability which I have ascribed to the California water plan (Feather River Project) water system applies with equal force to the aqueducts bringing water from the Colorado River to Southern California.

True, an enemy operating from the air or sea, or through people already here and on the ground, could destroy a sea water conversion plant, but when we have three major sources of fresh water, that is,

the Colorado River, the California water plan system and the sea water conversion plants (of which we need several along the coast of Southern California), the probability of an enemy knocking out all sources of fresh water is greatly reduced.

All those having suggestions or question on this subject, or any other subject or state government, are invited to write to me at PO Box 777, Inglewood 5, Cal.

Whooping Cough is Always Dangerous

ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., L. A. County Health Officer. Whooping cough (pertussis) is a widely prevalent disease that may occur at any season of the year.

Although some adults are not immune to the infection, it usually occurs in childhood and is most dangerous in children under three years of age. Indeed, statistics show that the younger the child the greater the hazard, with most of the deaths occurring in infants under six months of age.

For the most part, these deaths are preventable by the use of pertussis vaccine, which

is effective in nearly 80% of immunized individuals. Even if the disease does develop in children who have received the vaccine, the attack tends to be less severe.

Vaccination against whooping cough consists of three injections given a month apart, starting at the age of one or two months. This immunizing series must be completed before the child is adequately protected.

A booster dose is recommended at the end of one year and again when the child reaches three or four years of age. In some circumstances, a

booster dose may also be given when the child enters school. Immunization during early infancy is of extreme importance, for the duration of the active protection is generally sufficient to carry the child past the most dangerous first three years of life.

The illness begins seven to 14 days after exposure to the infection. Although one attack usually confers immunity, second attacks of the disease in the same individual are not unknown. The first symptoms are those of a common cold, and this condition may last for a week or two before merging

into the paroxysmal whooping and vomiting stage.

In a typical case the coughing and vomiting stage may last from three to six weeks, and the weakening effects of the illness are very apparent. It is often several months before normal strength is recovered, and it is during this period of weakness that complications, such as pneumonia, may occur.

Sometimes the whooping paroxysm never develops, and this is true especially in young infants and adults.

Nevertheless, the bacillus that is the causative agent of the disorder may be passed to other children by direct contact in the form of droplets from

TORRANCE HERALD

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the coughing or sneezing of an infected person or by contact with articles that have been soiled in this way.

In cases where whooping cough is suspected, therefore, even in an individual who has previously had the disease or has been immunized, a prompt medical examination is recommended.

Unfortunately, no specific drug has been found for the treatment of whooping cough, although certain of the antibiotic drugs and hyperimmune gamma globulin serum have been reported to shorten the course of the illness and lessen its severity.

Hyperimmune serum is also used for its preventive effect when it is administered soon after the individual is exposed to the infection.

Whooping cough continues to be a major health problem largely because parents fail to appreciate the seriousness of the disease and to take the necessary measures for its prevention.

A pamphlet giving additional information on whooping cough will be mailed to anyone sending a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

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